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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

**TWO MORE INDIANAPOLIS MEN INDICTED IN INTERNET
ARMED ROBBERY SCHEME**

PRESS RELEASE

Susan W. Brooks, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Indiana, announced today that two more Indianapolis men, JOSEPH E. RODGERS, 24, and DESMOND ALEXANDER JOHNSON, 19, have been indicted by a federal grand jury for robbery and conspiracy under the Hobbs Act and for the brandishing of firearms during the commission of the crimes, following a joint investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and Indianapolis Police Department.

Brooks had previously announced on March 2, 2005, that the grand jury had indicted DEWAN A. HORNE, 24, for his role in the scheme. That indictment alleged that HORNE would list vintage muscle cars (that he did not own) for auction on the eBay.com website.

Buyers would travel to Indianapolis with cash and masked accomplices, still at large last month, would rob them at gunpoint when they arrived at a destination to which HORNE would direct them. Today's superseding indictment re-alleges the same charges against HORNE, and also charges RODGERS and JOHNSON as the previously unidentified gunmen. The conspiracy charge lists a number of incomplete transactions in December 2004 and January 2005, one attempted robbery and a completed armed robbery. Two different would-be purchasers from out of state got suspicious and frightened when directed behind a garage on the east side of Indianapolis and left without completing the sale; another left after being shown a car that was not the same as that involved in the eBay negotiations. Two individuals from Nebraska drove off after RODGERS allegedly tried to rob them at gunpoint on January 1, 2005, and a father and son from Georgia and South Carolina were held at gunpoint by RODGERS and JOHNSON five days later as the defendants took more than \$9,000 in cash and equipment from their truck before driving off in HORNE's car.

RODGERS and JOHNSON were arrested two weeks ago and ordered detained by a federal magistrate judge. HORNE has been detained since his arrest in January.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Mark S. Massa, who is prosecuting the case for the government, all three defendants face a possible prison sentence of 7 years to life and a maximum possible fine of \$250,000. The Hobbs Act prohibits interference with interstate commerce by threats or violence and carries a maximum prison term of 20 years. Section 924(c) of Title 18 of the United States Code mandates a minimum sentencing enhancement of 7 years (and up to life in prison) when a firearm is brandished in commission

of a crime of violence. An initial hearing will be scheduled before a U.S. Magistrate Judge in Indianapolis.

The indictment is an allegation only, and the defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty at trial or by guilty plea.

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